

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the electrodes are connected at the distal-end portions of the pair of paddles to more clearly distinguish over the ablation instruments of US Pat. 6,527,767 (Wang et al.) which line the inner surfaces of the arms 54 of the instruments with ablator electrodes. The Wang et al. ablaters are designed to be in contact with the surface of the heart over the full circumference of the arms, from the distal ends of the arms 54 all the way to the proximal pivot ends of the arms. But if the heart is not of the same curvature of the arms, gaps can occur where ablaters do not contact the heart surface. This apparently is acceptable for an ablation instrument. Defibrillator paddle electrodes, by contrast, need to be fully in contact with the heart. If there are gaps in contact, arcing and burning can occur which would damage the patient's heart. In the paddle design of Fig. 1 of the present application the electrodes are at the distal ends of the paddles and do not line the shafts of the instrument as do the Wang et al. ablaters, thus assuring better control of the distally connected electrodes to be in full contact with the heart. It is respectfully submitted that the Wang et al. ablaters would not commend themselves to a designer of defibrillation paddles who is trying to design paddles which will not cause arcing and burning during defibrillation. Amended Claim 1 emphasizes these differences between the Wang et al. instruments and the claimed invention.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and recites that a discharge switch is present within the handle whereby the surgeon can trigger the application of the defibrillation shock. It is respectfully submitted that a discharge switch on the instrument is not shown or suggested by Wang et al. Similarly method Claim 21 has been amended to recite that a discharge switch is present to arrange

the electrical coupling of defibrillation circuitry to the electrodes.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 21-22 are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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